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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

Volume 27 San Francisco, California, November, 1945 Number 11

October Field Trip

The October field trip of the Association to Tomales Bay, Marin County, was a particularly successful one. Not only was an unforgettable sight afforded by eight of the rare White-Tailed Kites but a wide variety of habitats was covered resulting in an abundance of species observed.

The day commenced cold with overcast skies. Fog clouds billowed in from the Pacific. But about twelve-thirty the sun came out and shone warmly though fitfully all afternoon.

The party led by Charles A. Bryant, L. P. H. Bolander, Jr., and Marshall Jencks of the Sierra Club as guest leader, met at 9:30 a. m. at Point Reyes Station. Several species were there reported as seen earlier that morning at the Palace of Fine Arts Lagoon in San Francisco. A splendid male wood-duck with two females had come in recently. Seen also on the Lagoon were Baldpates, Redheads, Ring-necks, a Shoveller, a Ruddy Duck and an Eared Grebe. Ravens had been seen along San Francisco Bay, and on the trip northward an American Bittern flew by.

When the party had assembled it proceeded north beyond Tomales to study the giant rock formations in an area of bare rolling hills. Nests of Cliff Swallows were noted in the rock cavities while from a crevice a Raven's croaking could be heard. Wilson's Snipe were flushed from the adjacent meadows.

Dillon's Beach on Tomales Bay was reached by mid morning. The tide was out exposing vast mud flats. From a superb vantage point a hundred and fifty to a hundred and seventy-five Long-billed Curlews were studied probing the mud. With them were at least two Hudsonian Curlews, one Willet and a Yellowlegs affording excellent comparisons. The Curlews were studied till they flew off down the Bay. In leaving they gathered in flocks of twenty or thirty after interesting aerial maneuvers over the flats. Their loud calls could be distinctly heard.

Sometime after one o'clock the members assembled for lunch near Point Reyes Station. This was interrupted by the news that Mr. Bolander had gone on ahead and discovered eight White-Tailed Kites about a mile south. The party immediately proceeded to the site. Eight Kites were there perched three or four feet apart in an almost leafless tree perhaps fifteen feet above the edge of a small swamp.

After observing from some distance the Audubon party advanced in a body. At perhaps a hundred feet the birls rose simultaneously into the air, not flying

directly away but circling the swamp and hovering occasionally in one spot. Very gradually they rose into the air, finally soaring on motionless wings. One bird left the group and disappeared on the western hills. The remaining seven circled higher and higher till four were lost to view in the overcast.

There seemed to be an inclination of the birds to return to the original tree. The three still in sight began descending when one flew away northward. The two remaining continued their descent till apparently caught in a wind current. They were observed moving swiftly eastwards, first on motionless wings, then tumbling over and over. Coming out of their convolutions they plummeted earthwards. One alighted perhaps a hundred and fifty feet from the original tree. The second perched on a low leafless bush in the swamp near this tree. A third appeared and glided right in to the original roost.

The party did not wait longer to see if the other birds would return. As a guest of Mr. Charles A. Bryant and your society the writer indeed feels privileged to have been a part of this field trip. Especially interesting has been the opportunity to compare birding in the San Francisco region with that of the New York region. Again on this trip as on many others, the sights here in shorebirds, so much rarer on the east coast, have been particularly striking.

Twenty-nine members and thirty guests were present.

The following fifty-five species of birds were observed:

Western Grebe
Eared Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
Brown Pelican
Farallon Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Egret
Bittern
Pintail
Turkey Vulture
White-tailed Kite
Cooper Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Marsh Hawk
Sparrow Hawk
Virginia Rail
Coot
Killdeer
Wilson Snipe
Long-billed Curlew
Hudsonian Curlew
Western Willet
Lesser Yellow-legs
Sandpipers (species?)
Western Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Heermann Gull
Kingfisher
Red-shafted Flicker
Say's Phoebe
Black Poebe
Horned Lark
California Jay
Raven
Western Crow
Marin Chickadee
Wren-tit
Rock Wren
Marsh Wren
Western Bluebird
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Pipit
California Shrike
Audubon Warbler
Yellow-throat
Red-winged Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Brewer Blackbird
Willow Goldfinch
Green-backed Goldfinch
Pine Siskin
Brown Towhee
Nuttall Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Song Sparrow

—J. Gordon Irving, S 1/c U. S. Navy,
Linnaen Society, New York.

The Ornithological Writings of Amelia Sanborn Allen

The writings of Amelia Sanborn Allen are so largely concerned with the birds of the San Francisco Bay region and contain so much informative material that it seems appropriate to publish here a list of them for the guidance of other students of the bird life of this area.

For seventeen years Mrs. Allen edited the report from the bay region pub-

lished in each number of Bird-Lore's "The Season", with many of the notes from her own observations. During Mrs. Allen's rare absence from home the reports were cared for by Miss Margaret W. Wythe.

Mrs. Allen's contributions were made to Bird-Lore, the Condor, the Gull, and to the University of California Chronicle. An account of her life, written by Dr. Jean M. Linsdale, appears on pages 220-221 of the September-October, 1945, Condor. The list of Mrs. Allen's writings which appears below was largely compiled by Dr. Linsdale.

Bird-Lore

1915, vol. 17, p. 129 (note on the "whisper song" of the California bluejay).
The Season, San Francisco Bay Region
1920, vol. 22, pp. 110, 171-172, 232-233, 296-297, 361.
1921, vol. 23, pp. 38, 97, 148-149, 208-209, 255, 313-314.
1922, vol. 24, pp. 50-51, 104-105, 162, 226-227, 288-289, 356-357.
1923, vol. 25, pp. 53-54, 201-202, 268-269, 407-408.
1924, vol. 26, pp. 62-63.
1925, vol. 27, pp. 415-416.
1926, vol. 28, pp. 146-147, 218-220, 286-287, 354, 412-413.
1927, vol. 29, pp. 135-136, 206-208, 283-285, 356, 436-438.
1928, vol. 30, pp. 22-23, 135-137, 206-208, 280-281, 346-347, 410-411.
1929, vol. 31, pp. 19-20, 132-133, 209-210, 283-284, 416-418.
1930, vol. 32, pp. 17-18, 217-218, 292-293, 367, 440-441.
1931, vol. 33, pp. 23-24, 137-138, 205-206, 277-279, 341-342, 417-419.
1932, vol. 34, pp. 21-23, 151-153, 216-217, 280-281, 349, 408-409.
1933, vol. 35, pp. 111-112, 166-167, 218-219, 279-280, 336-337.
1934, vol. 36, pp. 121-122, 189-190, 252, 316, 378-379.
1935, vol. 37, pp. 147-148, 231, 296, 382, 472-473.
1936, vol. 38, pp. 165-166, 249-250, 314, 393-394, 473-474.

Condor

1915, vol. 17, p. 58, Return of winter birds to the same locality; pp. 78-85, Birds of a Berkeley hillside, p. 235; The hermit warbler in Berkeley.
1917, vol. 19, p. 185, Western robin and Sierra junco nesting in Alameda County, California.
1920, vol. 22, pp. 16-18, The rusty song sparrow in Berkeley, and the return of winter birds; p. 73, Red crossbills at Berkeley, California.
1921, vol. 23, p. 166, Food of western house wrens.
1928, vol. 39, pp. 361-362, Additional notes on the birds of the Gold Lake region, northern Sierra Nevada.
1930, vol. 32, pp. 240-241, figs. 83-87, The construction of a Hutton vireo's nest.
1933, vol. 35, pp. 225-227, Arrival and departure of avian visitants in the San Francisco Bay region.
1935, vol. 37, pp. pp. 254-255, Some observations on the feeding habits and eyeshine of the poor-will.
1940, vol. 42, p. 127, An albino eared grebe; p. 128, Migrating vesper sparrows at Santa Cruz, California.
1943, vol. 45, pp. 149-157, Additional notes on the birds of a Berkeley hillside.

Gull
1925, vol. 7, No. 5, p. (3), Birding on the Acropolis.
1929, vol. 11, No. 7, p. (2), An alluring auto park.
1930, vol. 12, No. 9, p. (1), Anna hummingbirds.
University of California Chronicle
1922, vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 89-106, 1 pl., The birds of the Berkeley Campus.
1927, vol. 29, No. 1, pp. 26-42, Birds of a classic land.

In addition to the published writings listed above Mrs. Allen left many manuscripts. Seven of these, Professor Allen is having printed as a memorial volume, of sixty-nine pages. He has titled the little book from the heading of the first selection — "Chasing Wrens".

— Hilda W. Grinnell

Notices

The Board of Directors will meet after the adjournment of the meeting on November 8th.

Notes for October meeting, on October observations, and of new members will appear in the December issue of the Gull.

November Meeting

The 338th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will take place on Thursday, November 8, at 7:30 p. m., in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Library at Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

We are most fortunate to have once again as our speaker, our friend and member, Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon of Mills College. Mrs. Sheldon will show us several reels of new films of birds and small mammals lately taken in the state of Nevada and in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

November Field Trip

To be taken on Sunday, November 11, to Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

Members and friends meet at 9:30 a. m., at 10th Avenue and Fulton St.

Take car No. 5, or transfer to the 10th Avenue bus. We will then proceed in the direction of the ocean.

Bring lunch and binoculars.

Leader — Mrs. Vee Curtis.

Audubon Association of the Pacific
Organized January 25, 1917
For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Mr. Arthur H. Myer.....25 El Camino Real, Berkeley 5
Corresponding Secretary.....Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....519 California St., San Francisco 4
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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.
Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco
Membership dues, payable January 1st, $3.00 per year
Student memberships, $1.50 per year Life memberships, $50.00
Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer